

Volunteer Newsletter Round Rock Public Library

On The Horizon: RFID and More

The hot topic around the library is the approach of radio frequency identification tags and new self-check machines. These nifty little devices will shift the way the library performs its most basic functions in circulating items. RFID tags will allow multiple items to be checked in or out at once by simply placing them on a small platform that can sense the tags affixed to the library books. This fast, simple and accurate technology can help a library to stay afloat in a growing community that circulates nearly 800,000 items a year. With no significant staff increases in the past five years, and none on the foreseeable horizon, the Round Rock Library will definitely benefit from this efficient technology.

However, the task before us is gigantic. We must retag our entire collection of 214, 000+ items in one week. You can help! The week in question is March 1-7. Those willing to add a few volunteer hours to help us finish this massive undertaking will be met with our deepest thanks.

And finally, please be on the lookout for information concerning the 2010 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This year's luncheon will be held in April to coincide with National Volunteer Week, April 18-24. Library staff will show its appreciation of our terrific volunteers on Tuesday, April 20. Invitations will be emailed in April. Since most of our teen volunteers are in school, their service will be honored in late summer before school begins.



**2009 Volunteer
Appreciation Luncheon**

**Vol. 1, Issue 1
February 1, 2010**

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Letter from The Director

We're so happy you have selected the Round Rock Public Library to contribute your volunteer hours.

In 1981, we initiated the volunteer program for three reasons. From a viewpoint of democracy, volunteerism provides citizens an opportunity to see their tax dollars at work. Secondly, the volunteers, over 80 of you, can

spread the good news about the library and what it has to offer. Over 70% of Round Rock residents get their "news" about Round Rock from family and friends. Thirdly, and most obviously, we have over 3 FTEs representing 6,000+ hours of volunteer help a year. We could not do the core work of the library as efficiently or effectively without the help from you.

This newsletter provides a jumping off point for volunteers and paid staff members alike to see the bigger picture of what the library is doing both internally and externally. It also provides a means to say "thank you" beyond the annual Volunteer luncheon.

We do appreciate all of you!

Dale

Por Favor

City Survey— The city will be conducting its biennial customer service survey, probably in March. The surveyor will randomly call households in Round Rock. This year's survey will focus on the 'importance' citizens place upon each of the city's services. We would like for you and your families to be aware of the survey, so that you can respond to it if your household is chosen. We will post more information, including the caller ID name of the surveyors on the volunteer bulletin boards.

**your contribution
our appreciation
@ your library®**

Many Happy Returns

February:

Delia Murphy
Nathaniel Ortiz
Thoa Pham
Alisha Pillay
Virginia Tagtow

March:

Lynn Bundy
David Chaka
Gwen Felder
Maneesha
Gaddikoppula
Maxene Felux
Mary Follmer

April:

Gowtham Eamani
Susie Ellis
Fleur Freudenstein
Carolyn Lovinggood
Chaarun Raghavan
Bob Tagtow

Get to Know Our Volunteers — Joanne Rowen

The Round Rock Public Library staff is very appreciative of our wonderful volunteers. We wanted to take the opportunity in this newsletter to highlight some of our volunteers and give you a chance to get to know one another better.

Joanne Rowen has been volunteering at our library for four years. She serves in the Public Service division on the circulation end. Joanne graciously took a few minutes out of her time to answer some of my questions.

What do you like best about volunteering?

I get lots of exercise.

Have you volunteered anywhere else?

Yes for the Literacy Council of Austin books sales. I used to sort the books that were going up for sale. Now they sell items online.

What do you do in your non-volunteer time?

Travel. Going to Egypt this year. My husband and I have been to New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, England, Scotland and have done the China silk route!

I'm a member of The Main Street Quilt and Thread Guild; they will be displaying here at the library in March. We may also

hold a public quilt college then.

What is your best memory here?

I like helping people who look lost and I frequently recommend funny mystery series like Sara Strohmeier's *Bubbles* series, Donna Andrews' *Murder With Peacocks*, and Sharon Kahn's *Fax Me a Bagel*.

What do you hope for the future of the library volunteers?

More volunteers and younger ones!



In a Nutshell by David E. Sharp (Public Services)

"J.D. is always ready with a smile and warm greeting"

He rides to work on a 2000 Kawasaki Vulcan Drifter 'retro bike,' sporting a leather jacket and stylish biker shades. He's Joe Diaz, but most of us call him J.D. He's been on staff with the

library for six years, but before that he was a volunteer.

J.D. is always ready with a smile and warm greeting to his colleagues in the RRPL, be they staff or volunteer. Outside of work, he is fond of movies, chess and open country roads that are waiting for the warm embrace of his Vulcan Drifter's tread marks.

Like most of us who spend so much time in a library, he likes to read a lot. His genre of choice is true crime, and he recently enjoyed the movie *The Lovely Bones*. On the job, he enjoys the customer service end of circulation and helping children to find books.

I asked J.D. what a person describing him must include as his own crucial element. His answer is respect and loyalty. I would not hesitate to use both of those words to describe J.D. You work with him, and so do I; and we're better off for it. Well, that is Joe Diaz in a nutshell.

**Joe Diaz
Public
Services
Tech**



Rockssane & Co. by Virginia Hadley (Youth Services)

Janette Johnston is the manager of the Youth Services Division. She has been with the Library for 26 years. Back when she was working on her Masters of Library Science from UT, she was a volunteer here at this library. After receiving her MLS she became the second librarian hired to work for the City of Round Rock. Over the years she has seen many changes from automation to renova-

tion. The Children's collection now takes up more space than the size of the entire library when Janette first started working here. Janette has three children, one grandchild and a dog named Pickle.



**Janette Johnston
Youth Services Manager**

This & That by Tricia Brauer (Volunteer Coordinator)

Being Volunteer Coordinator is one of several hats I wear at the Library. It's been a pleasure since it lets me meet and work with a wide variety of people. The volunteer team sets policies and procedures that will maximize the benefits that volunteers can bring to the library and the volunteer experience for individuals who



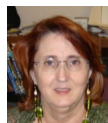
Candy



Mary



Virginia



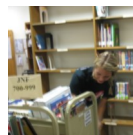
Tricia



Rehana

desire to give back to their community. The team consists of Candy Moseley & Mary Martinez (Public Services), Virginia Hadley (Youth Services), and Rehana Vohra (Technical Services). The unofficial yet fundamental member of the team is you, the volunteer. Please contact any of us with suggestions for new volunteer opportunities or how we can improve the program.

Several months ago we put up bulletin boards to have a place to post information that may be of interest. There are two boards; downstairs near the sheet for recording hours, and upstairs in the break room. Please check these for information



on new volunteer opportunities, the luncheon, the survey, etc.

The newsletter will come out quarterly and will feature news, staff and volunteer profiles, tips, and more. Look for it in your email, on our website or around the library. Thanks to Candy for taking on this project and all who contributed.

Please make sure that we have your correct email address. The newsletter will only be sent to you via email. We will also use email as the primary, direct method for invitations, etc.

To contribute in a different manner, click here to [Help Make Prom Dreams a Reality](#)

Save the Dates by Eric Towler (Public Services)

During the entire month of February, visit the "Symbol of Black Economic Success: Garfield McConico, First African American Round Rock City Councilman" photography exhibit at the Round Rock Public Library.

February is Black History Month and we have several events scheduled to coincide!

Feb. 2, 2:00pm – 3:30pm & 7:00pm–8:30pm join us for our Round Rock Reads Book Discussion Group for *Articles of War* by Nick Arvin. Access to the discussion will be possible to the public from the meeting room doors off of Liberty Street.

Feb. 6, 10:00am Black History Month Celebration at the Baca Center. Following at 3:30pm is a free concert located on "The Green" off Main Street across from the Library.

Feb. 13, 7:00pm–10:00pm Dance the night away at the Round Rock Public Library's First Annual Sweetheart Dance. Tickets go on sale January 19, 2010. Ticket prices are \$25 per couple or \$15 for individual, but seating is limited!

Feb 16, 7:00pm–8:00pm Black History Month Author Signing. Come and

meet Fred Gamble, author of *Crown of Creation: Fourth Revelation*; Corey Tabor, author of *I Be-ing* and JA Adams, author of *Chameleon* and *Purple Haze*.

Feb. 18, 7:00pm to 8:00pm Every Child Ready to Read For Parents of Talkers (2-3 years).

Feb. 20, 9:00am–12:00pm Black History Month: Historic Bus Tour - The tour will visit sites significant to African American history in Round Rock.

February 27, 3:00pm-5:00pm come enjoy performances by local talent at the Round Rock ISD District Performing Arts Center at McNeil High School.

Mar.1-7 – Library closed to the public for RFID project

During the month of March, the Main Street Quilt and Thread Guild will occupy the Gallery space with examples of their service projects for Project Linus (quilts for sick children), Binkie Brigade (small quilts to children in Iraq), and Thank You Quilts (for seriously injured soldiers at Ft Hood). There will also be an exhibit of contest quilts in the glass exhibit case.

In addition, there will be a quilt university on **March 27, 9:00am-12:00pm**. Mem-

bers of the guild and other quilters will show how to do core quilting steps. The primary audience is the new quilter or those interested in quilting.

Mar. 2, 2:00pm – 3:30pm & 7:00pm–8:30pm join us for our Round Rock Reads Book Discussion Group for *Shoeless Joe* by W. P. Kinsella. Access to the discussion will be possible to the public from the meeting room doors off of Liberty Street.

Mar. 10, 2:00pm – open gaming for teens.

Mar. 31, 7:00pm - 8:00pm Every Child Ready to Read For Parents of Pre-Readers (4-5 years).

In April the gallery will feature artist, Felicia Matthews. You can meet the artist on **April 8, 5:00pm–6:00pm**.

April 9-11, 16-18 is the annual Mystery Night sponsored by Friends of the Library.

April 20, 11:00pm- 1:00pm Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Please visit our website at: www.roundrocktexas.gov/library for details on all these events and all upcoming events. There are too many to list!

Tips and Tricks by Mary Martinez (Public Services) and Rehana Vohra (Technical Services)

Quick Tip:

Here is a quick tip for straightening out books that only takes a few seconds.

If you see a uneven books row which do not look attractive (A) at all to our browsing patrons, just take one book as shown in the picture (B), place your hand behind the books as shown in the picture (C), and pull those books forward . While placing your hand in the back, run your hand along the back of shelf to feel for any books that may have fallen, and then re-shelve the book. This will result in a much neater looking shelf of books (D).



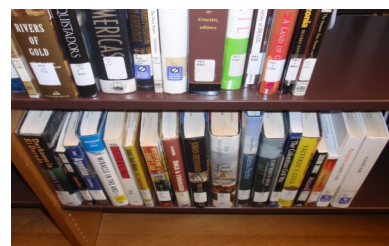
A



B



C



D

Volunteer Team

Tricia Brauer— Coordinator, 218-7007
Virginia Hadley— Youth Services, 218-3279
Rehana Vorha— Technical Services, 218-3269
Mary Martinez— Public Services, 218-7008
Candy Moseley— Public Services, 218-7008

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Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

If you are scheduled to volunteer and must miss your time please call your assigned supervisor to let them know.

Thank you for all the wonderful work you do!

Round Rock Public Library
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78665
512-218-7000



<http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/library/>

*If minds are truly alive they
will seek out books, for
books are the human race
recounting its memorable
experiences, confronting its
problems, searching for so-
lutions, drawing the blue-
prints of its futures.*

~Harry A. Overstreet

Social Psychologist, Author and Lecturer

